

Genus VESPERUGO.

Vesperugo, Keys. & Blas. Wieg. Archiv, 1839, p. 312.

Vesperugo (Vesperus) platyrhinus, n. sp.

Muzzle broad and obtuse; glandular prominences large, smoothly rounded; nostrils opening near the margin of the upper lip, on a level with the rounded extremity of the muzzle, not emarginate between. The front of the muzzle is evenly bevelled off from the summit of the glandular elevations to the margin of the upper lip; and the nasal apertures are narrow, appearing as small oblique slits in the front of the muzzle. Ears and tragus as in *V. Kuhlii*.

Wings from the base of the toes; postcalcaneal lobe small, but distinct; last caudal vertebra half free.

Fur above dark brown, paler towards the tip; beneath similar, the extremities of a lighter colour than on the upper surface.

Upper inner incisors long, faintly bifid at the extremities; outer incisors very short, scarcely equalling the cingulum of the inner ones; lower incisors crowded, trifid; no minute upper premolar; the single upper premolar very close to the canine.

Length (of an adult male)—head and body 1·8 inch, tail 1·4, head 0·7, ear 0·55, tragus 0·25, forearm 1·35, second finger 2·15, fourth finger 1·65, tibia 0·45, foot 0·25.

Hab. Unknown. Type in the collection of the British Museum.

This very peculiar species of *Vesperugo* resembles *V. Kuhlii* in size and in general form; but the absence of the first minute upper premolar and the shape of the muzzle at once distinguish it. The shape of the muzzle is so peculiar as to lead me to suspect it may be an individual peculiarity. As the specimen from which the description is taken is well preserved in alcohol, this flattening of the front of the muzzle and extremities of the nostrils is not due to imperfect preservation.

XXXIII.—*Descriptions of new Species of Geckotidæ in the British-Museum Collection.* By A. W. E. O'SHAUGHNESSY, Assistant in the Departments of Natural History.

Phyllodactylus tuberculosus,

described by Wiegmann (Acta Ac. Nat. Curios. xvii. p. 241, pl. 18. fig. 2) from California, to which we must add as a synonym the *Phyllodactylus Xanti* described by Cope

(Pr. Ac. Nat. Sc. Phil. 1863, p. 102), also from California, has "small ventral scales, which, although hexagonal, affect a circular form." They are in more than 25 longitudinal series; and if counted longitudinally from the vent to the throat, where they gradually merge into the smaller gular scales, the number is about sixty. The large campanuliform mental is followed by two large postmentals, and these by a series of much smaller roundish plates, set transversely, two or three of them being behind each postmental, but not going up laterally between the postmental and the second infra-labial.

This species has now been obtained from Guatemala and Salvador.

Phyllodactylus ventralis, sp. n.

Differs from the above in the ventral scales, which are much larger and regularly oval; there are not more than fifteen or sixteen longitudinal series of them; and counted longitudinally, to where they give place to the minute gular scales, they number about forty-five. The mental shield is longer, narrower, and more pointed posteriorly, its point being enclosed by two postmentals; and behind these a space reaching to about the middle of the chin exhibits rounded or polygonal scales, much larger than the minute gular scales of *P. tuberculosus* and those which follow in this species reaching as far as the chest. Immediately behind the postmentals the anterior rounded or polygonal scales constitute a distinct larger transverse series composed of four, the outermost on each side going up between the postmental and the second infralabial, occupying an interstice which is almost granular in *P. tuberculosus*. Head also much narrower, more pointed, and less flattened than in that species. The dorsal tubercles are in fifteen longitudinal series. The tail has rings of tuberculous scales at intervals, and a broadened inferior central series of scales. Ear-opening narrow, oblique.

Ground-colour yellowish brown. A narrow distinct stripe of dark brown from the nasal plate, through the eye, to the side of the body; the back variegated with dark brown.

Hab. Jamaica. One specimen, 4 inches in length.

Tarentola ephippiata, sp. n.

Head broad, depressed; muzzle rounded, covered with moderate-sized convex scales, somewhat larger in front than on the hinder portions of the head. Back minutely granular, with flat oval tubercles, disposed in fourteen regular longitudinal series; ventral surface covered with small uniform,

roundish or hexagonal scales; gular region with minute scales, becoming larger again laterally. Supralabials ten, the last two minute; infralabials eight. Mental a long wedge-shaped plate reaching backward as far as the third infralabial. Three postmentals on each side beneath the first, second, and third infralabials, diminishing in size. A row of secondary sublabials intervenes anteriorly between the second and third postmentals and the infralabials, leaving the larger first postmental in contact with the first infralabial. Three or four minute roundish scales at the point of the mental. Ear-opening very narrow, oblique. Pupil narrow, vertical. Tail with rings of tuberculous scales at intervals, and flat, squarish, tessellated scales on the lower surface.

Ground-colour pale brown. A long reddish brown stripe from the nose on each side of the head to the back, some way behind the shoulders, where it is enlarged and, joining that of the opposite side, forms a saddle-shaped patch. A small isolated brown spot, pointed anteriorly, forked posteriorly, on the occiput, and some transverse brown patches on the hinder portion of the back.

Two specimens from West Africa. Length $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

Hemidactylus echinus, sp. n.

A species, the type of which comes from West Africa, presenting the peculiarity of a series of prickles or short spines along the side of the body.

Upper parts minutely granular, with numerous small convex tubercles scattered irregularly, becoming fewer or failing altogether on the head, where the general very fine granulation becomes scarcely coarser on the muzzle. Eyelid with small tubercular scales. Chin and chest minutely granular; scales of belly very minute, close-set, almost granular; several crescentic series of larger preanal scales enclosing a curved series of eight pores. No femoral pores. The lowermost tubercles on the side of the body are developed into a regular series of pointed projections or prickles, extending between the fore and the hind limb; though minute, they present a strong resemblance to the spines of a sea-urchin. Rostral broad, divided; supralabials twelve; infralabials eight, with a line of narrow secondary sublabials beneath them. Mental triangular, with a small scale at its point and a pair of small postmentals on each side. Tail quadrangular, the ridges with projecting spinous tubercles. Ear-opening very small. Pupil vertical.

Colour brown, paler on the lower parts, with a diamond-shaped dark spot on the centre of the nape, some lighter

mottlings, rather indistinct, on the back, and a clear yellow spot on the hind part of the thigh, close to the root of the tail, which is banded alternately with dark and pale brown.

One specimen from the Gaboon, $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches long.

Goniodactylus caudiscutatus, Günth.,

does not offer the peculiarity mentioned by M. Bocourt, in 'Miss. sc. Mex.' p. 48, as characteristic of the *G. fuscus* of Hallowell, viz. that the mental plate is followed by a single large postmental in place of the row of small plates found in *G. albogularis*. The specimen bearing this name referred to by him is no doubt a different species; as there are specimens in the British Museum from Panama with a large single postmental; and these being different from Dr. Günther's species, I have named them, in accordance with M. Bocourt's differentiation, *G. fuscus*.

Goniodactylus Braconnieri, sp. n.

This form is referred to by Duméril, in 'Arch. du Mus.' viii. p. 473, as a variety of *G. albogularis*. It is distinguished from it by the conspicuous coloration of the gular region; and the British Museum has as yet received it only from the South-American continent, whereas *G. albogularis* appears to be a West-Indian species.

The whole of the chin is of a light colour, separated abruptly from the dark hue of the chest, which envelops the sides of the body, extending more or less on the belly. A straight white stripe, bordered with greyish, forked behind the mental, and dividing into two branches, extends the length of the chin to the chest. Another lateral stripe on each side curves upwards from before the chest towards the eye; and two blue spots on the supralabials beneath the eye correspond severally with the curved stripe and the lateral branch of the median gular stripe. There is also a vertical humeral band. The upper surface of the body is variegated like *G. albogularis*, being either (1) marbled with dark and light brown or (2) very finely punctulated.

Several specimens have been obtained from Barranquilla, New Granada, and one, which agrees completely with them, bears the locality of Chili.

Goniodactylus sulcatus, sp. n.

Head narrow, sharply descending from the supraorbital region to the extremity of the snout. Supralabials six; infra-labials five. Mental large, truncated behind, followed by two, small, hexagonal postmentals, and these by one or two rows

of similar scales forming a postmental patch. Gular region covered by uniform convex granules equal to those on the muzzle, larger than the finer granules of the top and sides of the head. Ear-opening small. The whole upper surface of the body granular; ventral surface from front of chest to anus with moderate-sized hexagonal scales, which also protect the anterior faces of the limbs and the entire lower surface of the hind limb. Tail tetragonal, with one deep median superior and two deep lateral furrows the whole of its length; finely granular above, with a central series of broad and lateral series of smaller scales beneath.

Colour (in spirit) dusky brown, very finely punctulated over the back with darker. A vertical humeral stripe and several indistinct dark roundish spots on the sides of the body. The upper surface of the tail is regularly barred with broad brown and pale patches.

The type of this species was received from Cuba; its length is $\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

XXXIV.—*Notice of the Occurrence of another Gigantic Cephalopod (Architeuthis) on the Coast of Newfoundland, in December 1874.* By A. E. VERRILL*.

IN an article published in the 'American Journal of Science' for February and March 1875†, I gave a summary of our information concerning twelve specimens of gigantic cephalopods that have been obtained in American waters during a few years past, together with a brief notice of the various specimens that have been described by European writers‡.

I am now able to add some important information concerning an additional specimen which was cast ashore last winter at Grand Bank, Fortune Bay, Newfoundland. As in the

* From the 'American Journal of Science' for September 1875.

† Vol. ix. pp. 123, 177, plates ii.-v. See also the 'American Naturalist,' vol. ix. pp. 21, 78, January and February 1875.

‡ In the 'Journal de Zoologie,' vol. iv. no. 2, p. 88, 1875, M. Paul Gervais has also given a summary of the gigantic cephalopods previously known, and has mentioned an additional species (*Architeuthis Mouchezi*, Vélain), of which portions were brought to Paris by M. Vélain, from the Island of Saint Paul, where it was cast ashore. He also quotes the brief notice of the animal by M. Vélain (in *Comptes Rendus*, t. lxxx. p. 1002, Séance du 19 Avril 1875). It is stated that this example belongs to the same group with *Ommastrephes*; and if so, it will probably prove to be generically distinct from both of the Newfoundland species. M. Gervais does not refer, in any way, to the several American specimens described by the writer and others.